

Sunday 29th March 2020



“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:10

Today and during w/c 30th March

We give everyone a virtual warm welcome. Help yourself to tea/coffee/drinks at any point and make yourself comfy on your sofa.

Keith Foster will be speaking on **Following God's word – Thessalonians 2:13** over a series of bite-size videos.

Next Sunday, 5th April, and during w/c 6th April

Josh Kindness will be speaking on **Following the Example of Others – Thessalonians 2:14-16** over a series of bite-size videos.

Pastor's Desk

Not Just Theory:

Folk who want to pass their driving test must do both a theory test, then a practical test on the road. The theory tests one's knowledge of the highway code, with the practical test showing how we can put our knowledge into practice.

This is (or should be) the same when it comes to God's Word - the Bible. We can learn all the theory we like, even master our understanding as much as we can - quoting the 'highway code' of God's Word eloquently. Yet this is of no use unless His Word has a practical outlet in our everyday living as Christ followers.

As we continue our time in 1 Thessalonians, Paul says to the Thessalonian believers:

We also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

The Thessalonians not only received the Word of God as Paul and the team taught them, but they allowed it to 'work in them' - to change them. The theory was matched with the practical.

As we follow Christ today - what is the balance between our theory and practice? Are we seeking to 'follow through God's word' as it changes us into His likeness? Additionally, are we encouraging others to do the same? Following Christ is not just theory.

Weekly messages:

We are livestreaming our Sunday morning service each week at 10.30am. This can be accessed via the Bethel Church Facebook page (you don't need a Facebook account to access it. The message is broken down over the week into 3 short videos (Sun morning live, Wednesday and Friday recorded). Additionally, there will be other live events/meetings that folk can access too - look out for the info chain and online notices. Please see separate notice with regards to how we can encourage those not online/connected.

Bethel Online & Beyond:

These challenging days cause us (like the Thessalonians) to be inventive in the ways we gather and communicate. Please be on the lookout for various ways and means you can stay connected and help others to connect too:

- If you are on social media, sign up to the church Facebook page where regular updates and videos/messages will appear;
- Sign up to our daily info/prayer chain to receive email updates and links to videos etc. Email Lou Peet on: lou.peet@bethelcoventry.org.uk;
- If you are a Life Group leader, keep connecting with your group members. Maybe form a WhatsApp group to exchange encouragements and ideas, or simply telephone or send a card to those without technology;
- Visit the church website to see ways in which you can carry on giving to the work amongst us: www.bethelcoventry.org.uk
- The Bethel News appears on the church website each week; keep checking in each week. If you know someone who would like a paper copy, let us know;
- Please adhere to the government guidelines for self-isolation and social distancing;
- If you feel unwell and are symptomatic, check the guidelines on the NHS website.

Upcoming services – March and April:

5th April: Following the Example of Others – Thessalonians 2:14-16

12th April: Easter all-in service

19th April: Following as we Shape others – Thessalonians 2:17-20

26th April: Following through Hardship & Temptation – Thessalonians 3:1-5

Praise & Prayer:

- Pray for our government as they lead us through this challenging time, pray that we will all play our part;
- Pray for the protection of all of those with underlying health conditions and the other vulnerable groups;
- Praise God for the NHS and all of our emergency and essential services - pray for their safety and overall well-being and mental health;
- Look out for one another, call someone, send a card, an email, a text;
- Keep safe - obey the latest NHS/Government guidelines;
- Pray the Spirit will minister to our minds and overall mental health;
- Ask the Lord to show you what He is saying to you (and His Church) in these days;
- Pray that we will all achieve a healthy theory/practical balance in our Christ following.

While we are unable to meet together even in small groups, we can still all be connected to one another. A number of folk are using video calling to keep in touch and even hold their usual life groups as well. For smaller numbers, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp work well; if there are more than three or four then quite a few of us have been using Zoom. Check out www.zoom.us where you can sign up for a free account and have a 40 minute video call with as many people as you want for free (after the free period you can just click back in again to start a new session).

It's easy to join in with any online sessions simply go to www.facebook.com/bethelchurchcoventry you don't even need a Facebook account. If you're unable to join in the live sessions then don't worry just go to the 'Videos' section of the Bethel Facebook page and they are all saved there.

Stay encouraged even during this difficult time – God is still in control and most definitely still at work!
Every blessing,
Josh

Life Group List

Please note the updated life group list. If you notice anything that's not right, please advise Gordon or Karen Sprouse and we will update it as soon as possible.

****Please do check with your life group leaders as to whether groups are continuing in a virtual setting during the current situation.****

If you are not part of a life group, please feel free to speak to Keith, Gordon, Karen or any of the house group leaders to find one that is right for you.

Group	Host / Leader	Where	When	Time
Josh	Josh	Church Lounge	Mondays	6.00 am
Young adult group	Rachel F & Tom H	Oasis café	Tuesdays	7.30 pm
Derek Seedhouse	Manohar & Derek	Coundon	Alt Tuesdays	7.45 pm
Liz & Dave	Liz & Dave	Allesley Park	Tuesdays	8.00 pm
Eric & Jane	Eric & Jane	Chapelfields	Alt Tuesdays	8.00 pm
Keith & Lesley	Keith & Lesley	Binley	Alt Thursday	7.45 pm
Gordon & Karen	Gordon	Tile Hill	Thursdays	7.45 pm

Other study options available – Porterbrook Learning, Purple Book – see Chris Page for details.

Bethel Pastoral Care Team

Whilst we are living through the Coronavirus restrictions and not able to meet as a community on Sundays or at our life groups, Bethel has created a Pastoral Care Team in order to maintain contact with those who do not attend a life group and therefore may not be in regular contact with others. From next week, a member of the PCT will make regular contact with non-life group members either by phone, email or postcard to keep them up to date with what is going on in the Bethel community and to offer help and support where it is needed. This will continue during the restrictions and beyond where necessary so that no-one feels isolated or forgotten. Stay safe and well. If you know of anyone who may benefit from this and who church may not be aware of, please do let Karen Sprouse know:

karen.sprouse@btopenworld.com